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REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Warn of POW 'Brain Washing'

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WASHINGTON, April 22 — The extent to which Communism has penetrated certain areas in the United States, as demonstrated by congressional investigations is likely to have a startling parallel in the return of sick and wounded POWs to the American lines in Korea.

Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has warned that many of the returnees may come back apparently converted to Communism by methods which the Russians have perfected by use of a sort of inverted psychiatry now described as "brain washing."

Dulles told a Princeton alumni group that "it is not beyond the range of possibility that considerable numbers of our own boys there might be so indoctrinated to be induced temporarily at least, to renounce country and family."

TO A NATION which is still puzzled as to why so many Americans turned Communist during the depression years, and now refuse to say when they left the party, if they have, the power of the Chinese Reds to change U.S. soldiers into Communist propagandists will be even more startling.

Throughout history, captors and dictators have tried to either convert or twist the minds of persons under their control to their doctrines. Torture, especially the more "refined" varieties, has been basic in all such attempts. The C.I.A., the central intelligence gathering agency created after World War II has collected enough evidence of success of the Chinese in indoctrinating captured U.N. soldiers to indicate that methods developed in Moscow are probably the most thorough in the world's history.

A captured Marine Corps colonel and major, on broadcast recordings, have denounced the United States and explained in detail the fictitious plans of their country for waging bacteriological warfare in Korea, according to Allen Dulles.

By the methods undoubtedly employed by the Chinese, likely individuals have ideas implanted in their minds by constant suggestion intermingled with mental pressure. This can only succeed, the Communists have reasoned in shut off areas like the satellite nations or in military districts. The success of indoctrination of ideas by pressure methods is gradually being recognized by experts on the human mind as one of the main weapons in prosecuting the cold war.

* * *

BRAIN WASHING was brought to a degree of development in Soviet Russia even before World War II in persuading men to confess to crimes they never committed. Some of the leading psychiatrists in Russia and in other "Curtain countries" famed for their brain specialists, have worked together in the breaking down of the same type of mind they used to build up.

The pseudo confession has become so much a part of the Communist technique that American doctors now recognize it as to be expected from those who have been long enough in Red hands. The method of obtaining it is probably being used on William Oatis, Associated Press correspondent imprisoned by the Czechoslovaks, as it was on Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary. But brainwashing, it is pointed out here, has never been used to any great extent on prisoners of war. That is a new development in psychological warfare, apparently intended to confuse their comrades when they return from imprisonment.

It is a new and terrible development in warfare by a foe with whom there can be no real truce. Furthermore, American students of the human mind are not sure they can combat it successfully.